

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8682

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, TECH, PARM, US, CO
SUBJ: NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: STATE 184127

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL WITH NUCLEAR AFFAIRS INSTITUTE (IAN) DIRECTOR, ERNESTO VILLARREAL, ON AUGUST 16 AND WITH ACTING UNDER-SECRETARY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIR IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HERNAN TOBON, ON AUGUST 18 AND SEPTEMBER 8. WE SUBSEQUENTLY WROTE TOBON DRAWING ON PARA 1 OF REFTEL.

2. DURING AUGUST 16 MEETING, VILLARREAL SAID IAN LIKES IDEA OF CONVERTING ITS RESEARCH REACTOR SO THAT IT COULD OPERATE ON FUEL OF LOWER ENRICHMENT. IAN, HE ADDED, IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN HAVING TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CONVERTING THE IAN REACTOR TO UTILIZE FUEL OF LOWER ENRICHMENT.

3. DURING SEPTEMBER 8 MEETING, TOBON GAVE EMBOFFS A LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 7, PROVIDING RESULTS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH IAN. LETTER STATES IAN BELIEVES NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD AT LEAST INCLUDE THE POINTS CONTAINED IN THE 1963 AGREEMENT, ADDITIONALLY, IAN THINKS THE NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE FOR:

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(1) COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF RESEARCH REACTORS, RADIOLOGICAL SECURITY, AND SECURITY PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF RESEARCH REACTORS.

(B) USE OF ISOTOPES AND NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES IN MEDICINE, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND FOOD TECHNOLOGY.

4. IAN ALSO SUGGESTS NUCLEAR COOPERATION MIGHT BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE SUCH ACTIVITIES AS URANIUM MINING AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS INTO THE COLOMBIAN POWER NETWORK.

5. REGARDING POSSIBLE MINOR MODIFICATIONS IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH THE US MAY WISH TO MAKE, TOBON'S LETTER STATES THAT GOC IS RESERVING ITS COMMENTS UNTIL IT KNOWS WHAT THE MODIFICATIONS ARE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE AUTHORIZATION AND INSTRUCTIONS SO THAT EMBASSY MAY INITIATED NEGOTIATIONS OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE GOC ON AN AD REFERENDUM BASIS.

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Message Attributes

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